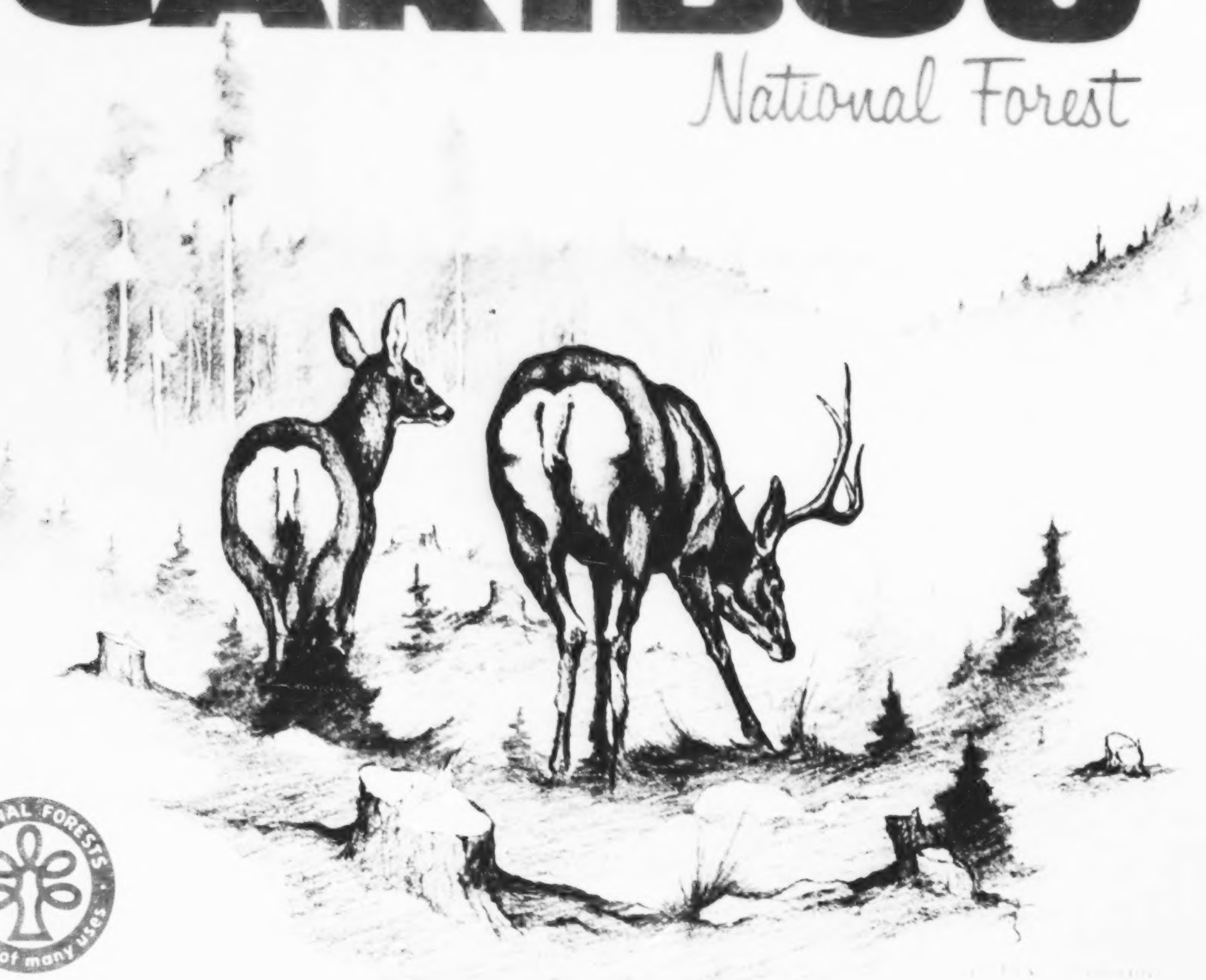
CARIBOU

National Forest











A Spirit of Understanding

In the early days of the Caribou National Forest, a fracas occurred between a homesteader and a newly assigned Forest Ranger. The homesteader was not about to allow the newcomer to build a cabin on "his" premises. The Ranger was just as insistent that the land was under public ownership.

The two battled. Finally, when both men were battered and bruised, the homesteader agreed that the Ranger could go ahead and build his cabin. From that time on, the two were close friends.

Forest Service history on the Caribou, throughout the nation in fact, is in some ways an enlargement of this story — early struggles to overcome opposition and misunderstanding, but steady advancement toward a position of strong public acceptance and trust.

Increasingly, on the Caribou and elsewhere, the need for reciprocation between Government and public has become apparent. The spirit of cooperation has grown. The relationship between the Caribou National Forest and its users is a fine example of this.

The Harmonious Five

The Caribou National Forest was established in 1907 for the protection, development, and use of forage, recreation, timber, water, and wildlife and other resources for the long-term benefits of the nation. Traditionally and legally, it has been the role of the Forest Service to manage "all the various renewable surface resources of the National Forests so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people." And this is performed on a sustained yield basis so that the resources may be perpetuated year after year "without impairment of the productivity of the land." Long-standing administrative policies in this connection were combined and given the force of law under the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Law of June 12, 1960.

Forage That Lasts

Throughout its history, the Caribou has been famed for its abundant, top-quality forage. In the early days before the Forest's establishment, the forage was available on a first-come-first-served basis, and the race for summer range was at times spectacular. Often 30 to 40 bands of sheep could be seen jockeying for position near the foothills of Snake River Valley. As might be supposed, fights and sometimes gunplay resulted.

Currently, approximately 22,000 cattle and horses, and 141,000 sheep graze the Caribou National Forest and the Curlew National Grassland each summer, playing a significant role in the economy of that area. To insure a continuing forage crop the Caribou National Forest has revegetated approximately 80,000 acres, much of which has been seeded with good quality forage grasses. Other improvements constructed include nearly 373 miles of range fence and about 332 water developments.

Of particular importance from a forage standpoint is the 47,500 acre Curlew National Grassland, designated in 1960 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Grassland is now being administered and improved under the direction of the Supervisor of the Caribou National Forest.

To Insure a Continuing Crop

In the early days of the Caribou National Forest, fire-fighting was largely a one-sided affair in favor of the fire. Rangers sometimes rode alone for days to reach a blaze, then battled it the season out, till winter came to the rescue. Vast tracts of timber were destroyed.

For people on or near the Forests, it was literally a matter of "run for your life." An old timer from Montpelier relates how he once escaped death by throwing a water-soaked blanket over his head as he rode, running away from the fire, burning with heat, then "hightailed" his way to safety through flame-choked Home Canyon.

Insects and disease also took a heavy timber toll, and there wasn't much man could do to stop them.

These things still pose a big problem on the Caribou and other National Forests, but through the advancements of technology and increasing "know-how," new and better ways are steadily being found to protect the timber crop. Fires are hit by efficient, well-organized teams, bombarded from the air with retardants, and prevention is stressed to the public. Insects and disease are controlled in a variety of ways.

Roughly half of the Caribou is covered with aspen, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and other trees. Yearly about 25 million board feet (roughly 500 truck loads) of timber is harvested from the Forest on a sustained yield basis, and the potential is higher.

Additional information on this National Forest may be obtained at the District Ranger Stations in Idaho Falls, Malad, Montpelier, Pocatello and Soda Springs, Idaho and in Freedom, Wyoming. The Forest Supervisor's Office is located at 427 North Sixth Avenue in Pocatello.

Recreation

Outdoor recreation as we know it was virtually non-existent in the early days of the Caribou except possibly for a few picnics. The first settlers found eking out a livelihood more than a full-time job. Gradually, however, with agricultural and industrial advancements people began acquiring more and more free time. In 1920, the first areas designated specifically for recreation were developed. Since that time, outdoor recreation has climbed from a purely incidental role to one of tremendous significance. Today it ranks as one of the five major National Forest "multiple uses."

Over the past decade recreation visits to the Caribou National Forest have climbed from 146,000 to 328,500, an increase of about 225 percent. To help meet this growing demand, the Forest builds new camp and picnic grounds regularly and renovates old ones. The Caribou National Forest now has 20 camp and picnic areas with an aggregate of 500 family units, four summer home areas, four youth camps, and a winter sports area.

Among the prominent recreation sites is Palisades Reservoir between Swan Valley, Idaho, and Alpine, Wyoming. Here, visitors boat, swim, water ski, fish, camp, picnic, hike, and simply enjoy the scenery.

Snow Fall and Spring Flow

Such phrases as "liquid gold," and "life blood of the West," are over-worked attempts to convey the tremendous importance of water in the life of man. A true appreciation of the role this resource plays might well entail a lifetime of study. The value of the National Forests in this connection can be partially understood, however, when one realizes that roughly 80 percent of the West's usable water emanates from these lands.

In all, the Caribou National Forest "produces" about 670,000 acre-feet of water annually with an estimated value of $4,700,000. Daily more than three million gallons of water from the Forest are available to supply domestic, agricultural, industrial, and other needs of surrounding communities. The need to protect these watersheds should be apparent to everyone.

During the winter the Caribou's mountains harbor billowing clouds, drawing heavily upon their moisture — mainly snow — before they drift onward. With the coming of spring, the snow begins to melt, percolating downward through the earth to emerge as spring-flow. In addition, a portion of this water must remain on the slopes not only for aesthetic reasons, but to sustain the vegetation thus helping prevent erosion, and for use by wildlife, livestock, and for recreation purposes.

Dwellers of the Forest

Wildlife which once furnished abundant food for Indian tribes was gradually depleted by uncontrolled hunting. Estimates at one time indicated only 150 deer and 50 elk on this National Forest.

Gradually, however, with the growth and development of the Forest Service and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, wildlife on the Forest has staged an encouraging comeback. The Forest Service is responsible for habitat management, while the Fish and Game Commission is primarily concerned with the actual management of the game species.

The Forest today contains thousands of mule deer and a sizeable elk population. Hunter success averages 50 to 60 percent on deer and about 30 percent on elk. Other wildlife includes black bear, moose, lynx, bobcat, badger, skunk, beaver, and snowshoe rabbit.

Upland game birds on the Caribou National Forest include ruffed, blue, and sage grouse, chukar partridge, and mourning dove. Such areas as Soda Springs, Greys Lake, American Falls Reservoir, and the Snake River—which get much of their water from the Caribou National Forest watersheds — provide good hunting for ducks and geese.

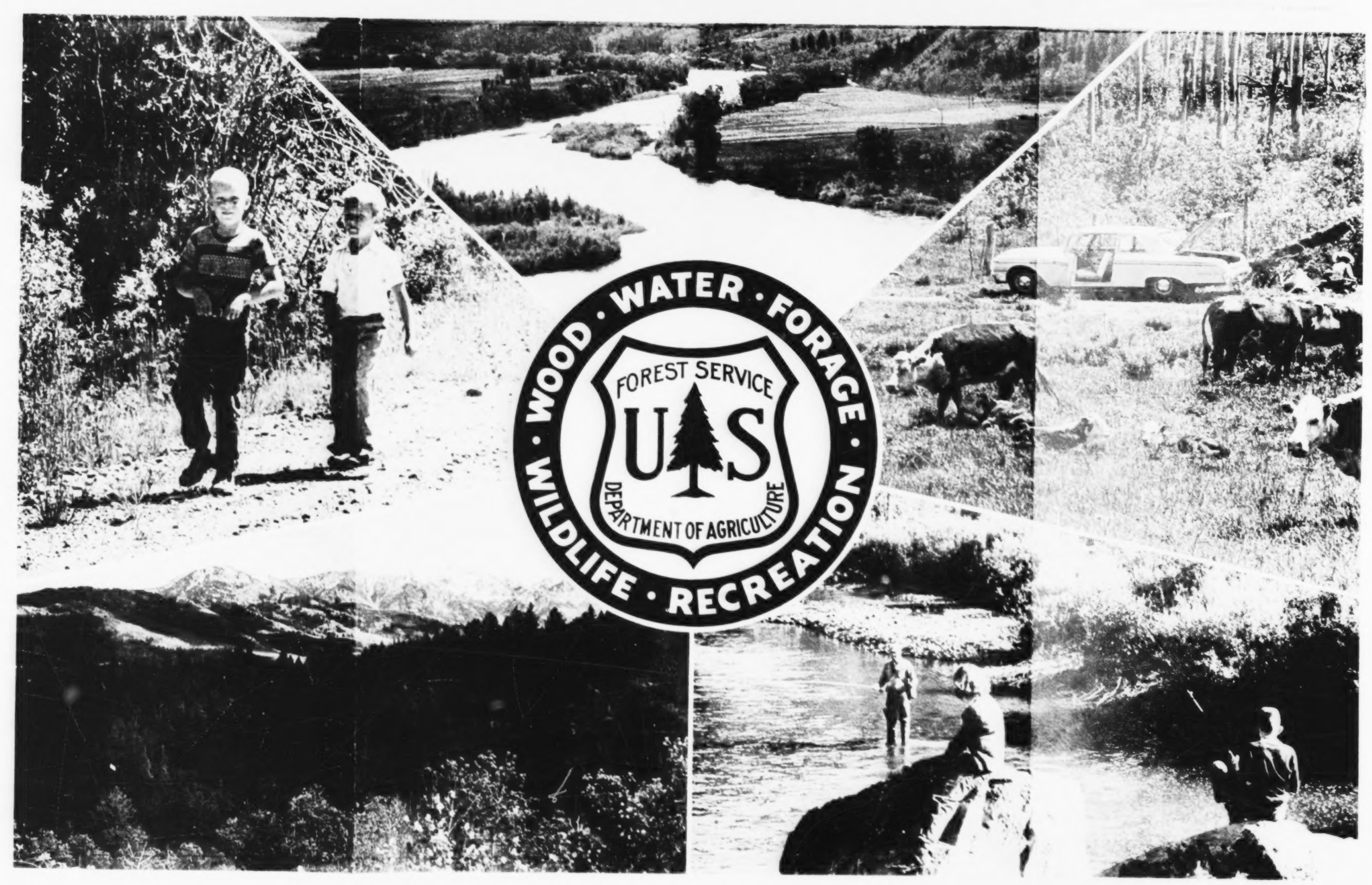
Throughout the Forest, lakes and rivers team with cutthroat and rainbow trout and other fish species.

Phosphate for Fertilizer

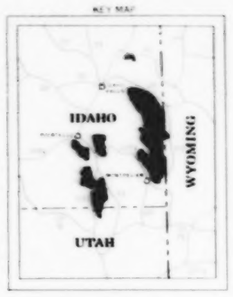
Early mining on the Caribou National Forest was a "rip snorting" business. The stories of wild races, on horseback, by buggy, wagon, and even by train to "stake claims" would fill a book. Since those times, minerals (classified as a non-renewable resource) have continued in importance.

The Forest today claims the largest known phosphate deposits in the world. Four phosphate processing companies, all million-dollar industries, are operating on the Forest. Phosphate leases cover some 28,000 acres.





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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
EDWARD P. CLIFF, CHIEF

CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST

IDAHO, UTAH AND WYOMING

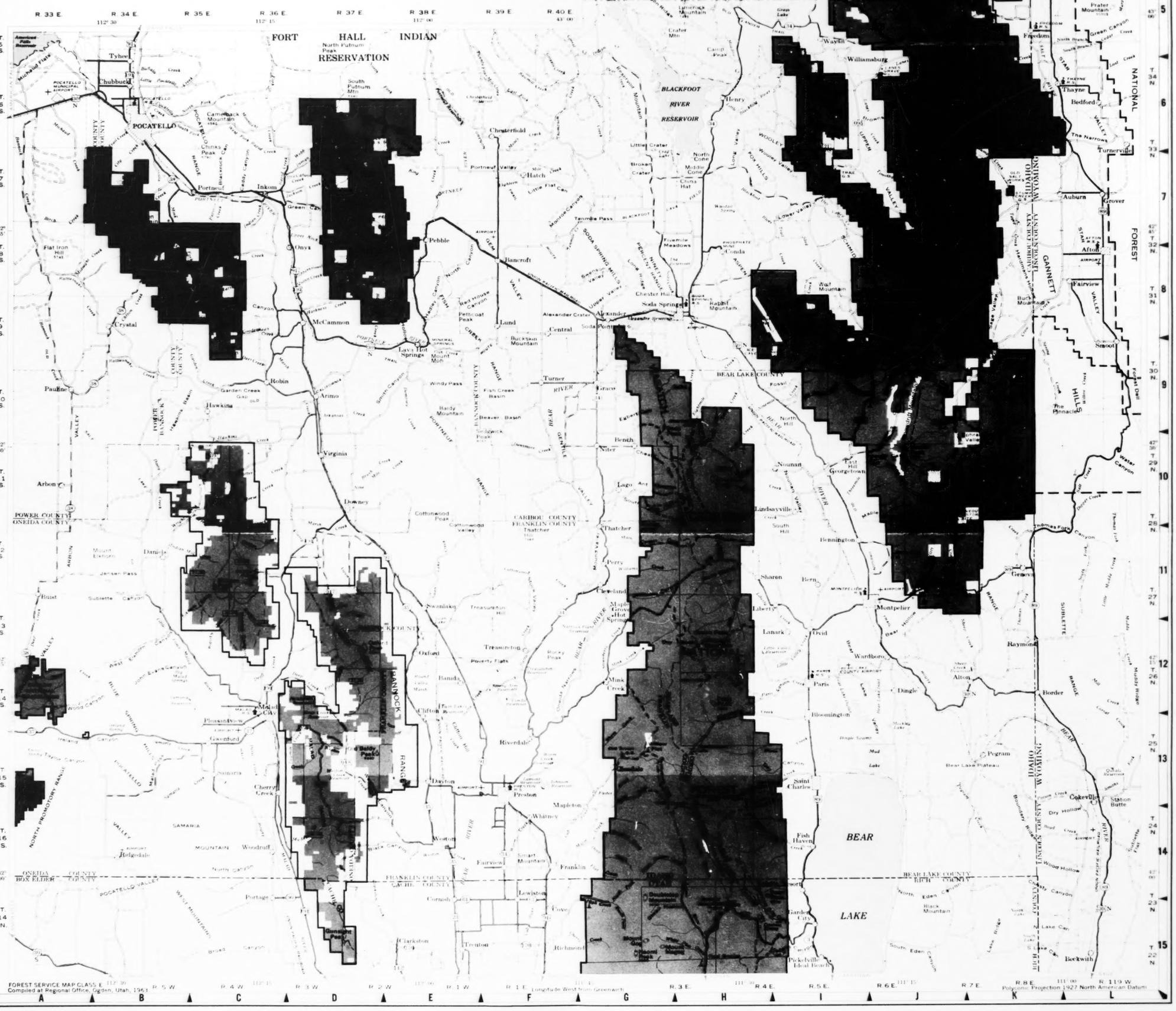
BOISE, SALT LAKE
AND SIXTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIANS

1963

Scale
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

LEGEND

- National Forest Boundary
- Adjacent National Forest Boundary
- Paved Road
- All Weather Road
- Dirt Road
- Primitive Road
- (30) U.S. Highway
- (30) State Highway
- (142) Forest Development Road (Prefix numbers are not shown)
- Trail
- Forest Supervisors Headquarters
- Ranger Station
- Guard or Ranger Station not permanently occupied
- Improved Recreation Site
- Caribou National Forest Land
- Urban Areas



FOREST SERVICE MAP CLASS E
Compiled at Regional Office, Ogden, Utah, 1963





CARIBOU
National Forest

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RECREATION SITES CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST

Name of Recreation Site	Map No.	Elevation	Season	Miles from Nearest Town	Name of Town	Camping	Picnicking	Group	Picnicking	Boat Launching	Trailer Facilities	Fishing	Picnicking	Swimming	Picnicking	Lake	Stream
Spring Creek	1	5400	May-Oct	4	16	X	X		X	X	2	X	X				X
Falls	2	5400	May-Oct	5	16	X	X	X	X		36	X	X				X
Calamity	3	5600	May-Oct	2	16	X	X	X	X	X	62	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hoffman	4	6000	May-Oct	18	None	X	X	X	X	X	20	X	X		X		X
Gravel Creek	5	6500	May-Oct	5	None	X	X	X	X		6	X	X				
Pine Bar	6	6500	May-Oct	10	None	X	X		X		4	X	X				X
Tincup	7	6000	May-Oct	4	None	X	X		X		10	X	X				
Mill Creek	8	6500	May-Oct	22	None	X	X		X		15	X	X				X
Cherry Springs	9	4500	May-Oct	10	None		X	X	X		0	X	X				X
Scout Mountain	10	6000	May-Oct	16	None	X	X	X	X		30		X				
Big Springs	11	5500	May-Oct	6	None	X	X	X		X	14	X	X				X
Summit View	12	7300	May-Oct	10	None	X	X	X	X		40	X	X				
Summit	13	5500	May-Oct	11	None	X	X	X	X		10	X	X				
Cherry Creek	14	5500	May-Oct	8	None	X	X		X		3	X	X				
Home Canyon	15	6700	May-Oct	6	None	X	X		X		7		X				
Montpelier Canyon	16	6700	May-Oct	5	None	X	X		X		1	X	X				X
Whitman Hollow	17	6800	May-Oct	6	None	X	X		X		7	X	X				X
Dry Creek	18	5500	May-Oct	15	None	X	X	X	X		8	X	X				
Bear Creek	19	5800	May-Oct	15	None	X	X		X		8	X	X				X
McCoy Bench	20	6000	May-Oct	20	16	X	X		X	X	19	X	X	X	X		

Obtained on field trip from Casey Reynolds



ONLY YOU
CAN PREVENT
FOREST FIRES

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